UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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US CIV 57021

CHROME HEARTS, LLC.

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff,

NEW CLASSIC, INC.; and SIMON YEUNSING YIU

Defendants.



## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Chrome Hearts, Inc., by its attorneys, as and for its complaint, alleges upon information and belief:

## THE PARTIES

V.

- 1. Plaintiff **Chrome Hearts, LLC.** ("Chrome Hearts") is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with an office and place of business at 915 N. Mansfield, Los Angeles, California 90038.
- 2 (a). Upon information and belief, defendant New Classic, Inc. is a New York corporation with a principal place of business at 41-43 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; is transacting and doing business within this judicial district and has committed the acts complained of herein within this judicial district. New Classic, Inc. is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to the laws of this State and Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
  - 2 (b). Upon information and belief, defendant Simon Yeunsing Yiu is an

trademark CHROME HEARTS.

8. Chrome Hearts sells a wide variety of quality artistic products, including leather pants, leather jackets, leather vests, sterling silver jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets, rings and wallet chains, belt buckles and a wide collection of other products, including its recent line of custom, one-of-a-kind furniture.

- 9. Chrome Hearts pioneered the idea of combining the look of rugged motorcycle looking apparel with fashion attire to make fashion apparel and accessories. All of Chrome Hearts' leather products are adorned with sterling silver hardware, including all of the buttons and ornamental pieces. Chrome Hearts further pioneered the look of suede inlay designs in connection with leather clothing. Once thought of as only a look for outlaw motorcyclists, Chrome Hearts has created a fashion niche that is now coveted in the upper most fashion circles.
- 10. Entertainers, such as Cher, Billy Idol, Aerosmith, Lenny Kravitz, Guns N' Roses, Seal, Madonna, Keith Richards, Danny Glover, Sting, Gloria Estefan, Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell and Sharon Stone can all be seen in Chrome Hearts' fashions. Chrome Hearts products are sold in the exclusive CHROME HEARTS stores throughout the world and in select speciality stores, such as Browns of London and the United Arrows and Intellectual Galleries boutiques in Japan.
- 11. In 1993, the Council of Fashion Designers of America ("CFDA") presented plaintiff Chrome Hearts with an unsolicited award as designer of the year for its innovated accessories and jewelry designs.
- 12. All Chrome Hearts products are hand made in Los Angeles by Chrome Hearts' craftsmen. The level of expert workmanship exercised by these individuals is superior and conforms with the strict standards established by Chrome Hearts.
- 13. Works designed by Chrome Hearts have been praised and recognized in numerous articles appearing in both trade publications and publications directed to the general

public around the world, including articles in the United States, Germany, Japan and France.

These articles have acclaimed the high artistry, fashion and style of Chrome Hearts' designs and the uniqueness of the designs.

- 14. Since 1991, Chrome Hearts' products have generated sales at retail of over Three Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$350,000,000).
- 15. Plaintiff Chrome Hearts is the owner of, *inter alia*, U.S. Registration Nos. 1,665,791 for **CHROME HEARTS**; 2,307,126 for the **CHROME HEARTS** plus **Horseshoe Design**; 2,284,625 for the **CHROME HEARTS** plus **Dagger Design**; 2,216,570 for the **CHROME HEARTS** plus **Scroll Design**; 2,407,915 for the **Dagger Heart Design**; 2,954,539 for the **CH Design** (stylized); and 3,385,449 for the **CH plus Design** (collectively referred to herein as the "Chrome Heart Trademarks"). Chrome Hearts is entitled to the exclusive use and benefit of all of its Registrations. Annexed hereto and identified as *Exhibit 1* are copies of the Registrations for the Chrome Hearts Marks.
- 16. The Chrome Hearts Mark has come to identify, in the United States and throughout the world, high quality leather fashions, jewelry and accessories designed and manufactured by Chrome Hearts.
- 17. Among many other copyright registrations, Chrome Hearts is the owner of Copyright Registration No. VA 705-234 for the **Classic Oval Design** belt buckle and Copyright Registration No. VA 705-197 for the **Dagger** pendant (collectively referred to herein as the "Copyrighted Work"). Annexed hereto and identified as *Exhibit 2* are copies of the Registrations and photographs of the Copyrighted Work.
- 18. Chrome Hearts has duly complied in all respects with the provisions of Title 17 of the United States Code, and has secured the rights and privileges accorded to the work protected by the copyright laws.

- 23. Defendant's infringement of plaintiff Chrome Hearts' Copyrighted Work is to the great and irreparable damage of plaintiff, and plaintiff Chrome Hearts is informed and believes, as indicated, that Defendant will continue such infringement unless enjoined by this Court.
- 24. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and has suffered irreparable damage as a result of Defendant's acts as aforesaid in an amount thus far not determined, but believed to be in excess of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000).

## FEDERAL UNFAIR COMPETITION

- 25. Plaintiff Chrome Hearts repeats and realleges every allegation contained paragraphs 1 through 16, 20, 22 and 23 as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. This claim arises under the provision of the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. 1051, et seq., particularly under 15 U.S.C. 1125(a) and alleges the use in commerce of a false designation of origin and false or misleading description of fact and false or misleading representation of fact.
- 27. By reason of the marketing, celebrity status and unsolicited press coverage generated for Chrome Hearts' products at the trade and consumer levels, and the unique quality of the products comprising the entire line of plaintiff's, these products are recognized by the trade and consumers as being products designed and hand crafted by plaintiff Chrome Hearts.
- 28. Chrome Hearts' products have become widely known among purchasers as articles that are designed and manufactured by plaintiff. These products are known to be quality items, with unique designs, made with the highest quality materials, and embodying expert craftsmanship.
- 29. The goodwill of the plaintiff Chrome Hearts and the favorable reputation residing in Chrome Hearts' products is a valuable asset belonging to plaintiff.
  - 30. Defendant, with knowledge of the widespread recognition of Chrome Hearts'

- 35. Defendant's manufacturing, distribution and sale of their infringing products incorporating the distinctive designs of plaintiff Chrome Hearts' products is likely to cause confusion between such products and the goods sold by plaintiff Chrome Hearts, thus constituting an infringement of plaintiff's valuable common law rights.
- 36. Upon information and belief, Defendant is "palming off" their infringing products as the high quality merchandise of plaintiff Chrome Hearts, and is knowingly enabling others to do the same and is thus deliberately and knowingly misappropriating and diverting plaintiff's valuable proprietary rights and goodwill, and the reputation symbolized thereby, thereby unfairly competing with plaintiff.
- 37. Upon information and belief, Defendant's unfair competition has caused and, if allowed to continue, will continue to cause sales of plaintiff's products to be lost and/or diverted to Defendant. Further, Defendant's unfair competition has caused substantial and irreparable damage and injury to plaintiff and in particular to its valuable goodwill and reputation, and unless enjoined by this Court, will continue to cause substantial and irreparable damage and injury to plaintiff.
- 38. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and has suffered irreparable damage as a result of Defendant's acts as aforesaid in an amount thus far not determined, but believed to be in excess of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000).

#### WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands:

A. that Defendant, its officers, agents, employees, attorneys and all persons acting in concert, participation or combination with Defendant, be preliminarily and permanently enjoined from infringing upon plaintiff's Copyrighted Work or any copyrighted design owned by plaintiff and from manufacturing, promoting, advertising and selling any product substantially similar to the copyrighted work of plaintiff, or any work substantially similar to the proprietary

designs of plaintiff;

B. that Defendant, its officers, agents, employees, attorneys and all persons acting in concert, participation or combination with Defendant, be preliminary and permanently enjoined from competing unfairly with plaintiff, from falsely representing and falsely designating the origin of Defendant's goods, from diluting the distinctive quality of plaintiff's trademark and from engaging in false advertising;

- C. that Defendant be required to pay to plaintiff Chrome Hearts damages in a sum to be determined at trial and to account for all gains, profits and advantages derived by Defendant by the sale or advertisement of the Copyrighted Work or any work confusingly similar thereto; represented or advertised by Defendant to be a genuine Chrome Hearts product or its equivalent;
- D. that the piratical copies of Plaintiff's belt buckle be recalled from all of Defendant's stores and surrendered to Plaintiff for destruction;
- E. that plaintiff be awarded statutory damages by reason of the infringement of plaintiff's Copyrighted Work;

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- F. that plaintiff be awarded treble damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys fees and the costs and disbursements of this action;
- G. that plaintiff be granted an award of punitive damages in view of the willful and malicious nature of Defendant's tortious acts; and,
- H. that plaintiff have such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: New York, New York June 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

TUCKER & LATIFI, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 160 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10028

(212) 472-6262

Robert L. Tucker (RLT 1027)

For a Work of the Visual Arts UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT OFFICE



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

> REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS United States of America

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JEWELRY DESIGN

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PUBLICATION AS A CONTRIBUTION If this work was published as a contribution to a periodical, serial, or collection, give information about the Title of Collective Work Y collective work in which the contribution appeared.

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NAME OF AUTHOR Y a

CHROME HEARTS, INC.

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□ Architectural work

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COPYRIGHT CLAIMANT(S) Name and address must be given even if the claimant is the same as the author given in space 2. 3

CHROME HEARTS, INC.

937 North Citrus Avenue

Hollywood, California 90038

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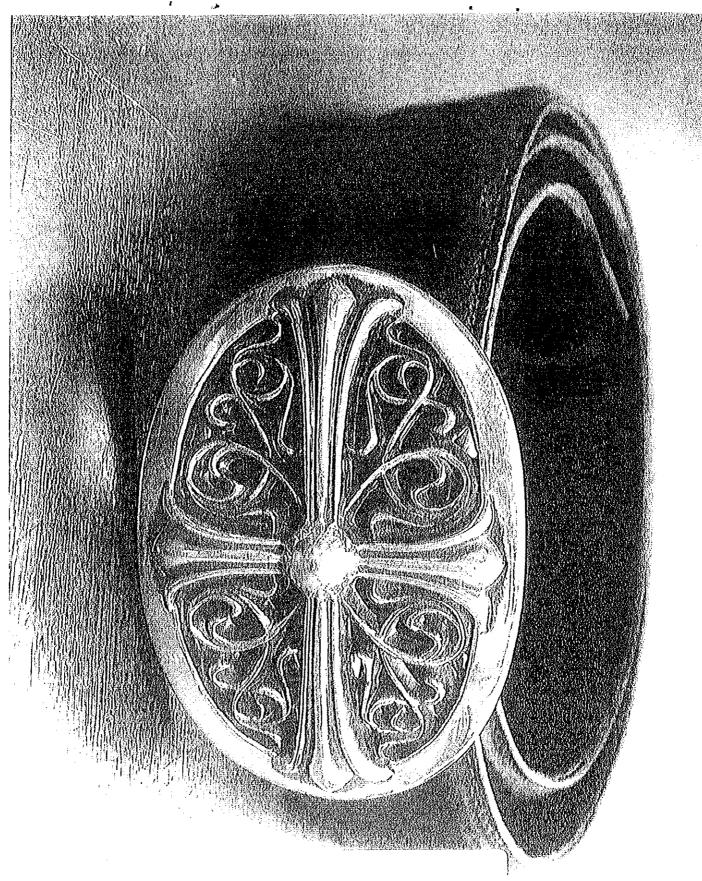
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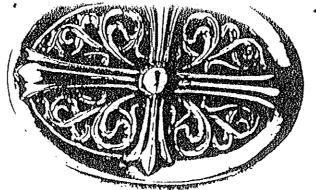
Exhibit 1

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| a. $\square$ This is the first published edition of a work previously registered in unpublished for b. $\square$ This is the first application submitted by this author as copyright claimant.  | n.   |
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with the application, shall be fined not more than \$2,500.



Chrome Hearts Genuine Classic Oval Buckle





This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

Marybeth Peters

RÉGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
United States of America

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For a Work of the Visual Arts
UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT OFFICE



VA 705-197

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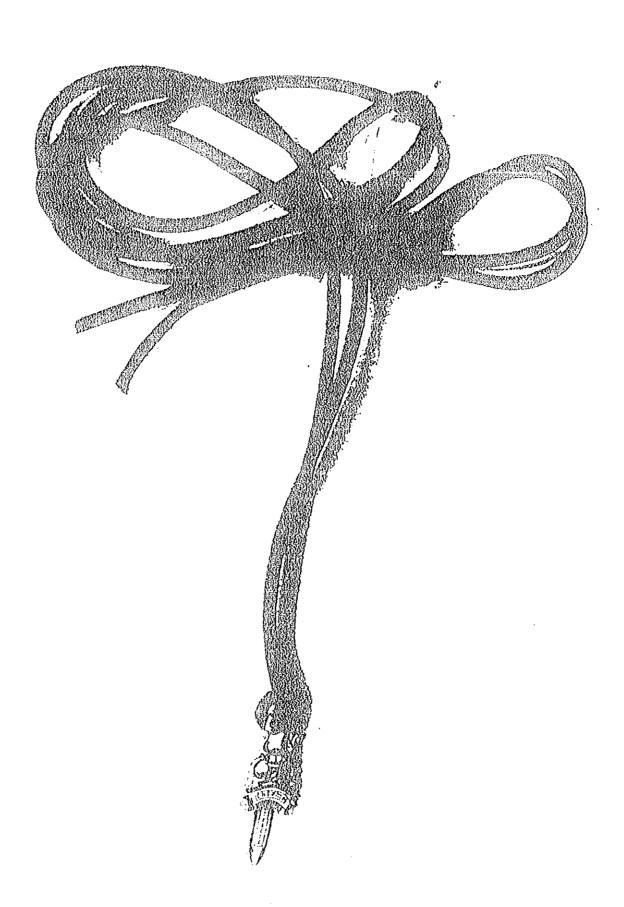
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<sup>17</sup> U.S.C. § 506(a): Any person who knowingly makes a false representation of a material fact in the application for copyright registration provided for by section 409, or in any written statement lifted in connection with the application, shall be fined not more than \$2,500.

Proceed Commence



Int. Cls.: 14, 18, 25 and 26

Prior U.S. Cls.: 3, 28, 39 and 40

# United States Patent and Trademark Office Reg. No. 1,665,791 Registered Nov. 26, 1991

#### TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER

#### **CHROME HEARTS**

CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA COR-PORATION) 303 EAST FOURTH STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

FOR: JEWELRY, BELT BUCKLES MADE OF PRECIOUS METAL, KEY RINGS MADE OF PRECIOUS METAL, CUFFLINKS, TIE FASTENERS MADE OF PRECIOUS METAL, BROOCHES, NECKLACES AND EARRINGS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CL. 28).

FIRST USE 7-27-1989; IN COMMERCE 11-22-1989.

FOR: GARMENT BAGS FOR TRAVEL, TOTE BAGS, SHOULDER BAGS, PURSES AND LUGGAGE, IN CLASS 18 (U.S. CL. 3).

FIRST USE 11-9-1989; IN COMMERCE 11-16-1989.

FOR: CLOTHING; NAMELY, SHIRTS, TROUSERS, JACKETS, VESTS, CHAPS, MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR, COATS, CLOTHING BELTS, GLOVES AND BOOTS, IN CLASS 25 (U.S. CL. 39).

FIRST USE 4-19-1989; IN COMMERCE 11-9-1989.

FOR: BELT BUCKLES NOT OF PRECIOUS METAL AND TIE FASTENERS NOT OF PRECIOUS METAL, IN CLASS 26 (U.S. CL. 40).

FIRST USE 7-27-1989; IN COMMERCE 11-22-1989.

SER. NO. 74-106,186, FILED 10-15-1990.

CHRISIE BRIGHTMIRE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 2,307,126

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Jan. 11, 2000

### TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER



CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA COR-PORATION) 937 N. CITRUS AVENUE HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038

FOR: JEWELRY MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART OF PRECIOUS METAL, NAMELY, RINGS, EARRINGS, NECKLACES, BRACELETS, CUFF LINKS, KEY RINGS, BELT BUCK-

LES, WATCHES AND TIE FASTENERS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50).

FIRST USE 4-0-1989; IN COMMERCE 4-0-1989.

OWNER OF U.S. REG. NO. 1,665,791.

SER. NO. 75-490,650, FILED 5-26-1998.

JASON TURNER, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 2,284,625

# United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Oct. 12, 1999

# TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER



CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA COR-PORATION) 937 N. CITRUS AVENUE HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038

FOR: JEWELRY MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART OF PRECIOIUS METALS; NAMELY, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, RINGS, PENDANTS, EARRINGS, KEY RINGS, BROOCHES, LAPEL PINS, CUFF LINKS, WATCHES AND BELT BUCKLES MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART

OF PRECIOUS METALS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50).

FIRST USE 7-27-1989; IN COMMERCE 11-22-1989.

OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 1,665,791, 2,214,642 AND OTHERS.

SER. NO. 75-399,215, FILED 12-3-1997.

AMOS T. MATTHEWS, JR., EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 2,216,570

## United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Jan. 5, 1999

# TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER



CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA COR-PORATION) 937 N. CITRUS AVENUE HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038

FOR: JEWELRY MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART OF PRECIOUS METAL; NAMELY, RINGS, EARRINGS, NECKLACES, BRACELETS, CUFF LINKS, KEY RINGS, BELT BUCK-

LES, WATCHES AND TIE FASTENERS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50).
FIRST USE 4-0-1989; IN COMMERCE 4-0-1989.
OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 1,665,791 AND

2,118,026. SER. NO. 75-476,249, FILED 4-29-1998.

CARYN HINES, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 2,407,915

# United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Nov. 28, 2000

## TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER



CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA CORPORA-TION) 937 N. CITRUS AVENUE HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038

FOR: JEWELRY MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART OF PRECIOUS METALS; NAMELY, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, PENDANTS, KEY RINGS, CUFF LINKS, WATCHES AND BELT BUCKLES MADE WHOLLY OR IN PART OF PRECIOUS METALS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50).

FIRST USE 5-1-1996; IN COMMERCE 5-1-1996. OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 1,665,791, 2,216,570 AND OTHERS.

SER. NO. 75-671,093, FILED 3-29-1999.

ANGELA M. MICHELI, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 2,954,539

# United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered May 24, 2005

## TRADEMARK PRINCIPAL REGISTER



CHROME HEARTS, INC. (CALIFORNIA COR-PORATION) 915 N. MANSFIELD HOLLYWOOD, CA 90038

FOR: JEWELRY, NAMELY, BRACELETS, NECK-LACES, RINGS, EARRINGS, PENDANTS, CUFF LINKS AND WATCH BRACELETS, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50). FIRST USE 1-0-1992; IN COMMERCE 1-0-1992.

SER. NO. 76-590,713, FILED 5-6-2004.

TANYA AMOS, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

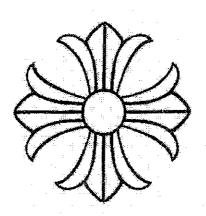
Prior U.S. Cls.: 2, 27, 28 and 50

Reg. No. 3,385,449

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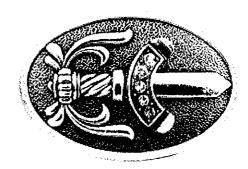
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#### Body Jewelry

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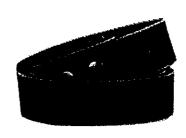


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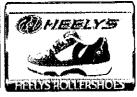
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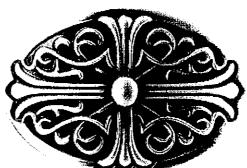
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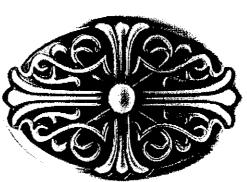
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# Satin Tribal Cross Buckle



#99 NC#A259

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Size. Small 30-32 inch waist

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| Defendants.  |                  |

# **COMPLAINT**

Tucker & Latifi, LLP Counsel for the Plaintiff 160 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10028 (212) 472-6262